December 1993

Volume 1, No. 10

Office: 1-719 635-6086
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 DIGNITY/ So. Colorado Vision & Goals CANDLE LIGHT VIGIL 6:00P ACACIA PARK	4 Gift Bazaar Branding Iron @ Hide & Seek 12 - 6p Dennis Lujan Art Show 3 - 7p
5	6 GZ Executive Committee 7p Colo. College	7 Fundraising 5:30p	8	9	10	11 Game Night DIGNITY/ So. Colo
12 GZ Party @ True Colors 4 - 8p	13 GZ Executive Committee 7p Colo. College	14 Fundraising 5:30p	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Diversity Chorus 7:00p	16	17	18 MASS Christmas Party DIGNITY/ So. Colo. 7p
19	20 GZ Board of Directors 7p Colo. College	21 Fundraising 5:30p	22 Diversity Chorus 7:00p	23	24	25
26	27 GZ Executive Committee 7p Colo. College	28 GROUND ZERO SPONSORS "OUT" MONTHLY PROGRAM CABLE CHANNEL"9" 9pm Fundraising 5:30p	29 Diversity Chorus 7:00p	30	31	

Future dates, times and event information need to be dropped off at the Ground Zero office by the 15 th of the month . Thanks..... Be a patriot !! Join our fight against discrimination. Become a member! Cost is only $10 !! And membership DOES have its privileges !!

DECEMBER 3, Friday, DIGNITY/Southern Colorado will conduct a listening session to discuss the organization's future vision and goals. All are very much encouraged to participate. This session will be immediately following the regularly schedule Mass at 7:00pm.

DECEMBER 4, SATURDAY, 12:00pm - 6:00pm COMMUNITY - WIDE GIFT BAZAAR at the Branding Iron, Hide and Seek Complex. Booth rental is $20.00 with all money raised being donated to families living with AIDS. Contact Chris Lee or John Roberts at (719) 685-5509 any time.

DECEMBER 4, SATURDAY, 3:00pm - 7:00pm, Dennis Lujan's Art Show **"Erotica"**, 1224 W. Cucharras. Dennis' artistic talents are continually contributed to support Ground Zero's efforts. Come out and support this outstanding artist!

DECEMBER 11, SATURDAY, 8:00pm GAME NIGHT, DIGNITY/Southern Colorado

DECEMBER 12, SUNDAY, 4:00PM - 8:00PM, TRUE COLORS; GROUND ZERO sponsors a party to celebrate the season, our one year anniversary and just generally to get everyone together for a good time. **NO FUNDRAISING AND NO POLITICS. EVERYONE IS INVITED.** It's on us! In other words, it's free! We will have a DJ -- maybe live entertainment, True Colors will offer specials throughout the evening. Come join us for a good time. If you can help out with this party, call Frank, 635-6086.

DECEMBER 18, SATURDAY, 7:00PM MASS AT SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH followed by a **CHRISTMAS PARTY** sponsored by **DIGNITY/Southern Colorado.** Call 635-5773 for more information.

A MEMBER SPEAKS OUT

There are no strangers.....

When I was a child, my Mama told me about strangers. "Never go off with a stranger, " she said. "Never get in the car with a stranger...even if you're offered candy or ice cream. Never get in even if that stranger knows your name, or says they know your Mama or your Daddy."

My Mama told us this more than once. And she said if a stranger tries to grab us and force us into the car, that we must run away screaming and find someone to help. She said it was not something she likes to have to tell us, but she wanted us to be safe. And we listened because of how she said it, because she wanted us to be safe. And we listened because of how she said it, because she seemed so frightened.

Then, when I was in the first grade something did happen. It was a spring afternoon. All the trees were budding, flowers were blooming, people were out raking and mowing their yards. My brother and sisters and I got off the bus and began walking down the long white gravel road towards home. But I wasn't feeling well. I had asthma quite severely then, and that spring afternoon I was having a very difficult time breathing.

My brother and sisters tried to help me get home, but there wasn't much they could do. At last they decided that they should race ahead and get Mama. So they did.

I struggled on alone for a while, but began to feel that my sweater was choking me. So I took it off and just let it drop in the road as I slowly went on. Eventually, my lunch box felt very heavy and I dropped it too. The last thing I finally dropped was the library book from school that I had been allowed to check out for the first time. I had gotten a book just a little too hard for me to read, but it intrigued me. It was a book about how a dog saves a cat who finds itself lost in a big city. And even as a I struggled along, I wanted very much to know how the cat got saved, and what all happened in the story, and how the two of them got along. But the book was heavy, and I dropped it in the dusty road as I pushed myself on.

Then an unusual thing occurred. A car came up behind me. We seldom had guests at our house. Our parents did little entertaining. They seldom went out; having four children didn't leave a lot of time for such things. So this car was an odd sight on our road. It was even more unusual when it pulled up beside me. The woman driving rolled down her window. "Would you like a ride home, honey?" she said.

I was so intent on merely breathing that I couldn't speak, so I shook my head no.

"I can tell you don't feel too well, and I know your Mama has probably told you not to get into cars with strangers, but I know your Mama. She goes to my church. Your name is Cindy, isn't it?"

All I could do was shake my head, no. I was very afraid that she would try to pull me into the car because I could not run away and I could not scream for help. I just stood there shaking my head no, no, no and trying not to cry.

At last the woman drove on. I was feeling so terrible that I had to sit down. I could only wait and watch for Mama to come up over the hill. And as I waited I began towonder what Mama would do when she came. Daddy had driven the only car to work. How would Mama get me to the doctor? I could only try not to cry, which would have made things so much worse.

Finally, a cloud of dust arose and that same car with the woman in it drove through the cloud. I wanted to run, I knew I should try, but I couldn't. And so I waited for whatever bad thing was going to happen next.

Then the car stopped and my Mama got out. She scooped me up and got back in the car. "Hurry Rose Mary," was all she said. And we drove past the library book, the lunch box, and the sweater in the road.

When we got to the hospital we had to wait. We sat together on a long bench, the lady who drove the car, my Mama, and me. I was siting on my Mama's lap, and the last thing I remember was opening my eyes and seeing that lady-stranger's hand resting on my Mama's shoulder. And all of a sudden I didn't understand strangers anymore.

My Mama was right, there are bad people in the world who do hurtful things to children. But the fewer people we leave as strangers, the less we will have to be frightened of.

Do homosexual people hurt children? Not most of us.

Do homosexual people perform lewd acts in parades and in public? Not must of us.

Do homosexual people do harmful things to each other in the name of love? Not most of us.

Do heterosexual people hurt children, act lewd in public and on TV? Do they hurt and rape each other? Not most.

Let's leave no one as a stranger. It's way too lonely a business. Our people have agreed for far too long to go unknown and unnoticed. We have been afraid of what will be thought, afraid that we could not explain who we are, and that because we wish to love each other, we would be seen as the worst and most feared of strangers. But we have allowed ourselves to go uneducated about the greater possibility of understanding and welcome. For this we must somehow apologize.

Could we go back and find that book in the dusty road, that library book that a first grader was allowed to check out for the very first time? That one that's just a little difficult to read because the words might not be those that are the easiest to get through and understand? Let's find that book and discover what can happen when we don't allow anyone to stay lost and frightened in what can seem a strange place.

Journal entry
March 21, 1993
Cindy Bee

Holiday Religious Services

Several members requested information on Holiday Religious Services in the area. We contacted as many groups as we could on short notice; if you know of others we missed, please call the office with this information so it is available to all.

All-Souls Unitarian Church,
730 N. Tejon, 633-7717
Sunday Services are 9:00 & 11:15 am
Great Expectations, Sunday, Dec. 5
Many Faces of Christmas, Sunday, Dec.12
Seasons of Lights, Sunday, Dec. 19
Candlelight Service, Friday Dec. 24, 7:00 pm

DIGNITY/Southern Colorado
Sacred Heart Catholic Church,
2021 W. Pikes Peak, 635-5773
Mass - Saturday, Dec. 4, 7:00 pm,
followed by listening session
Mass - Saturday, Dec.18, 7:00 pm,
followed by Christmas Party
Mass - Saturday, Jan 1, 7:00 pm,
Regular Services

First Congregational Church,
20 E. St Vrain, 635-3549
Advent Services - Sunday, Dec. 5 - 26,10:30 am
Christmas Mystery - Sunday, Dec. 19, 4 pm
Christmas Eve - Friday Dec. 24
Blessings and Carols, 7:30 pm
Candlelight and Communion, 11:00 pm
Messiah Sing-Along - Sunday, Dec. 26,10:30 am

Metropolitan Community Church,
730 N. Tejon, 634-3771
Details not available at press time,
please call.

Rocky Mountain Chavurot
All Souls Unitarian Church, 730 N. Tejon
Hanukkah Party, 7:00 pm

The *Ground Zero Newsletter* is an authorized publication for members of Ground Zero. A condensed version is published for monthly distribution through friendly vendors to the general public. Contents of the *Ground Zero Newsletter* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the Board of Directors of Ground Zero. The editorial content is edited and prepared by the Newsletter staff/committee.

The Newsletter staff members are:
Sue R. - editor
Buffy H. - technical content/layout
Gail A. - distribution
Associate staff are members of the Networking Committee.

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Giving-Thanks

It's Thanksgiving Eve, and I'm trying to finish the Newsletter on time. I've got alot to be thankful for tonight; Sue stayed up most of a night earlier this week editing...Frank gathered last minute news and new addresses for the mailing list, everyone in the office has been wonderful helping...even more so than usual.

But there is so much more to be thankful for, not just in this Holiday season, but also in this Era - this wonderful, history-making time!!

I'm thankful for GLBT movement, and our place in history here in Colorado Springs. We should thank Will Perkins and his associates in CFV for bringing issues into the spotlight and eventually into the court system.

I'm also thankful for all of the organizations from national-level down to grass-roots (too numerous to name in this small space) that are support ive with their efforts.

I'm thankful for Ground Zero. This organization has provided an constructive outlet for my frustrations with prejudice and intolerance. Instead of fussing and fuming, I'm working on a permanent record of our efforts.

I'm very thankful for the spouses and partners of Newsletter and Office staffs; without their understanding and support, we couldn't even begin to meet deadlines.

I'm thankful for knowing there is a Future. For me and the rest of the world that considers itself a minority. Here's a wish that your Holiday Season is warm with the Love, Hope, Toleration and Understanding for others...

See you next month.

Your Letters.....

Dear Ground Zero,

This letter represents several people in the community. You see, there are a lot of closeted people like us in the community who depend on "out" people like all of you for guidance and representation and we wanted to let you know how much you are appreciated, and that your hard work has not gone unnoticed.

We know that a lot of your frustration comes from the negativity within the community. You all deserve medals for being able to deal with all the obstacles, including members of our community that do nothing but complain. People who want to bitch should get out of the way and let the leaders lead!

We are very happy to support you in any way possible because Colorado Springs desperately needs Ground Zero to stand up for us, and to educate this State and city about who we are. Your representatives (especially Katherine Pease, Bobbie Mone, Bruce Pfrommer , and Peter Joseph) are all superb and are excellent representatives of the community. So please don't give up - you are the best thing that has happened to Colorado Springs in a long time. In the last year, you have done more for the community than any group in Colorado Springs history. We don't want you to go away when Amendment 2 does (we hope). **So please hang in there!**

Sign Us,
Closeted and Concerned in Colorado Springs

PS Please accept our donation and print this in your excellent newsletter.

Dear Closeted and Concerned,

Thanks for the kind words. We really appreciate getting your feedback. If you have a "safe" address, we would love to send you the Newsletter every month, please let us know.....

Information from RESOLUTE!
Newsletter of the People with AIDS Coalition Colorado.

We are pleased and proud to provide *Resolute!* free to anyone with HIV infection or AIDS who cannot afford a regular subscription. However, it does cost a considerable amount of money to produce and mail each issue and we could use your support. We kindly ask for a $10.00 subscription/donation from those who can afford it.

Send your check to PWA Coalition, P.O. Box 300339, 1576 Sherman Street, Denver, Co. 80203 Telephone 303-837-8214

Dear Directors and Members:

I must take time to express my deep appreciation for your efforts in fighting the oppression of Amendment #2. Newspaper polls under rate the progress that has been made in educating the public about the Gay community. Although we have not yet greatly changed how people would vote on #2, I feel a good deal of headway has been made in the way the public tolerates and understands the GLBT community. Even Will Perkins has now said he has a greater compassion for the Gay people than before. Listen to how Kevin Tebedo used to talk a year ago compared to the views he holds now.

We need to reinforce our efforts in convincing the public that we do not want special rights, and that voting NO ON 2 will not create another minority group for our society and taxes to take care of. That is their main fear about the Gay Community's rights movement. When I say just Gay Community, I'm not leaving out anyone. I remember the old days when these words stood for all the groups within our community. There was no GLBT in those days.

Being one of the most visible parts of our community and suffering a lot of hassles, I can say that things are much different than a year ago. Some of the people who used to try and drum Dan & I out of society, are now going out of their way to tell us they are no longer care about our lifestyle. I can see this in the way people treat me all over Colorado Springs. The problem is far from being solved, unlike newspaper polls say, Ground Zero has definitely made a strong impact upon this community. Follow me around for a day and you will see.

Amendment 2 took a lot out of me. Because of the religious right attacks, I lost my mall jewelry store and a very prestigious partnership, one which I could consign up to $50,000 worth of jewelry on a handshake. Repeated attacks on home and work, along with the flood of anti-gay propaganda in the media before the 1992 election, has made me feel as though part of me is gone. Like losing a limb in the war, I will never be the same. There is no way the religious right will make it into the gates of Heaven form hurting so many, so much.

I would like to compliment Ground Zero for being one of the most inclusive and tolerant organizations I have come in contact with. Even though the Trans-gendered people are not good about attending the functions you promote, we are always invited and encouraged to attend. This means a lot! If not with you physically, we are always with you in spirit!

It is through your gallant efforts and show of force that I am still allowed to live here. I thank all of the organizations and supportive people that have helped in educating tolerance for all people. You have literally saved my life.

Keep it up Ground Zero, We Need You!
Love,
Christy Hopping

Cincinnati mayor-elect quizzed about her sexual orientation

From *The Denver Post*, November 6, 1993

Just days after voters rejected a homosexual rights ballot issue, the city's mayor-elect was deflecting questions about her own sexual orientation.

Callers to radio talk show last night quizzed Councilwoman Roxanne Qualls, with one asking: "did I or did I not vote for a lesbian?"

Qualls said the question was inappropriate and refused to answer.

"It's not an issue," she said in an interview after the show. "Questions about the private lives of people are really inappropriate and very clearly distract from the pressing issues for the city."

Rumors began to circulate after Qualls, who supported the homosexual-rights ballot issue that voters rejected Tuesday, appeared the next day at a gay rights rally.

"We are wonderful," she said at the time, explaining later that "we" referred to people attending the rally.

The issue never surfaced during the 40-year-old Democrat's camppaign for a second term on the city council. In Cincinnati, the top vote-getter in the council race becomes mayor. Qualls won the job with 8 percent of the vote.

The city has wrangled over the issue of homosexuallity before.

In 1990, city police arrested two men for holding hands in a parked car in a city park. Disorderly conduct charges were dropped.

Pam McMichael of the group Stonewall Cincinnati said her organization endorsed Qualls, who is single, and 10 other council candidates, but none were asked about their sexual orientation.

`"We are very clear that our agenda is to make Cincinnati a fair and equal place for all of it's citizens," McMichael said. "There's no hidden agenda here."

Qualls was one of seven council members who voted for a human rights ordinance in NOvember 1992. Two members voted against it.

Phil Burress of Citizens for Community Values and chairman of Equal Rights, Not Special Rights, the coalition that opposed the ordinance, said Qualls "is perfectly qualified to be a mayor."

But he warned that "if she continues to promote the homosexual agenda through being a mayor...if she passes another law, we'll be back on the ballot. City council's the one that forced the issue, not us.

Speaking of Mayors...

Dear Betty Lynn and Bruce,

Thank you for being at the Smokebrush Theater and participating in the debate you had with Will (Perkins) and The Boys.

It makes me proud to have such patient, articulate and reseasonable people representing the Gay Community.

When I was in my 20's, I took up banners and attended rallies and worked to educate the world as to the truth about homosexuals by speaking at colleges about my reality as a lesbian. In my naive way of thinking, I assumed the world was becoming a more tolerant place and I could "live and let live". But having lived in the Springs area for the last 11 years, I realize that the fight against lies and ignorance goes on.

I care that our community be more tolerant and understanding since my partner and I are raising our 10 year old son here and don't plan on leaving.

I feel we still have a long way to go and many ignorant people to confront, which reminds me...**Have either one of you considered running for Mayor??**

Thanks again,
Crystal and Family

As always, the staff of the Newsletter welcome your inputs. Please address them to us at the office, and remember that the deadline for submission is the 15 th of the month preceeding publication.

CLIENTS KISS PACKWOOD BACKERS GOOD-BYE

Excerpts taken from the Denver Post Thursday, Nov. 18 Article written by Donna St. George, Knight-Ridder News Service

On Sunday, the phone started ringing with angry callers at the women's organization in Cleveland. By Monday, a filmmaker in Michigan was cutting up his Amoco credit cards and canceling his long-distance service with MCI.

That same day in Seattle, a family therapist who doesn't get involved in politics was penning her first-ever letter of protest. "I am incensed," Margaret Delaney wrote to her friends across the country, "that our system is so unbalanced and unfair."

She and others demanded: How could corporate leaders contribute thousands of dollars to rescue Oregon Republican Sen. Bob Packwood from 29 women's charges of sexual harassment? Their rage echoed from Idaho to Rhode Island, as scores of ordinary people reacted to a news report that Packwood has collected thousands of dollars for his legal defense from staff lobbyists and chief executives from at least 15 large companies.

The companies included Turner Broadcasting, Southwest Airlines, MCI, Amoco, Arco, Dole Food Co., Boise Cascade, Cigna, Seagram Co., Hallmark, Eli Lilly, Salomon Bros. and Bell Atlantic.

The quiet flow of cash to Packwood includes 243 contributions in all - money from labor groups, politicians and friends, in addition to corporate support - for a defense fund of some $275,000. By comparison, the women accusing Packwood have raised no more than $25,000.

The 9 to 5 National Association of Working Women was "deluged with calls about it, at chapters all across the country," spokeswoman Maripat Blankenheim said.

"People were asking, 'What can we do for these (28) women?' and ' Is there a longer list of companies who gave to Packwood?'" Blankenheim said.

"All of them without a doubt said they were going to think twice about patronizing those companies in the future."

The blue-chip list infuriated Eric Mueller, who owns a small industrial filmmaking company in the Detroit suburb of Southfield.

On Monday, Mueller decided that he no longer needed his Amoco credit cards. No longer wanted MCI. And, for that matter, no longer wished to fly on Southwest Airlines. "I perfectly understand Packwood is entitled to a defense," Mueller said, "but I just don't want to do business with somebody who's contributing to a man of his moral fiber."

Mueller called the companies to let them know they were losing his business.

He said he was first told newspaper reports were wrong, and then told the contributions were "personal" gifts by employees.

Those employees were lobbyists - who are the very face of the company in Washington and the people appointed to make pitches on behalf of any legislation that affects the company." As far as I'm concerned," Mueller said, the lobbyists are "the company itself."

In Indianapolis, John Cordell, a telephone-company worker, decided to cancel MCI as his long-distance company because "it just really gets under my skin that companies would give to someone like him."

In Austin, Texas, similar sentiment inspired a formal poll at the golf-club components company, Goldsmith International.

Carl Paul, the company president, circulated the story that told about the Packwood contributions to his 11 top managers, along with ballots asking what reaction the company should have.

Interestingly, all eight men in management voted to give money to the legal fund for the women accusing Packwood.

The three female managers voted to keep the company out of the controversy.

"The great majority of customers are men, and we (the male managers) felt they would feel like we do about it," Paul said. "But the women managers expected an adverse reaction from our male customers."

For workers at companies linked to the contributions, news of the donations made them wonder about their firm's commitment to promoting diversity and ending harassment.

"Amoco has had quite a number of programs that have pushed the company as a good place for women to work," said one employee "and this contribution has a lot of women and men concerned."

A manager at MCI said the reaction in his office ranged from mild irritation to outrage. "I worry about what kind of message this sends," he said, "as far as MCI condoning that (sexual harassment)."

Many consumers who complained about the Packwood donations said they felt they were not getting straight answers.

An MCI service rep told John Cordell, that the Packwood donation cam e from a busing firm rather than the telecommunications giant. Another man said he was told the story was wrong.

At MCI headquarters in Washington, spokeswoman Melissa Robinson attributed the misstatements to "something getting lost in the transmission" between the company's stated view and what its service reps are saying.

MCI says the contribution by its Washington lobbyist was a personal gift from a man who had once worked for Packwood. "We didn't know about it at the time." Robinson said.

Editors note: Come on, Melissa! What was lost in the transmission? I thought your whole telecommunication system is fiber optics, state of the art "stuff". So much for friends and family!

News from DIGNITY/ Southern Colorado

The gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community of Colorado Springs asked DIGNITY/Southern Colorado to sponsor a service marking the first anniversary of the passage of Amendment 2. DIGNITY took the opportunity to remember just how fragile our rights are when left to the rule of the majority.

As part of their Social Concerns commitment, they invited the entire community to join together at Shove Chapel on Nov. 7. A group sang a gathering song, Voices That Challenge. Bonnie Frum, President, P-FLAG spoke on "Reflection of Life Since Passage of Amendment Two." Pat Hewitt also spoke of "Reflection on Amendment Two -- Where do We Go From Here." Though the turnout was small, the event appeared to have significant impact on those who were able to come.

The newsletter is fortunate to have a copy of Pat's speech. We would like to share this speech with you.

" I was reading a book called 'Transitions' when Michael Solano called to ask me to speak at the Dignity/Ground Zero Prayer Vigil during Amendment 2 week. When I look back over the past year, I am amazed at the transitions I have been through.

I have become politically active - personally invested in an issue of justice, not just for other people, but a struggle for my own rights, for my own integrity. I was not this way before last November.

As all transitions do, mine has included some very visible events. But perhaps more important are the invisible things that have happened within me and within each one of us.... A sense of fear that we had never felt so keenly before, an experience of threat and rejection that brought back feelings from other times when we felt threatened or rejected.

Then an energy came... a new feeling of strength and purpose - of courage and community that grew out of our mourning and grieving together, 300 of us, that first night after the election. An energy committed to changing the environment that resulted in Amendment 2's passage.

We each went out determined to do SOMETHING - some of us came out at our jobs, some joined or started organizations where we did everything from publishing newsletters, to marching, to fundraising, to praying. The media found us and we learned to speak our minds and our hearts on camera and over the radio.

And more subtle things happened. We found new friends, new sources of support in people we had never known before. We began to let ourselves say the works "I am gay," "I am lesbian," "I am bisexual," with pride find confidence and love. We began to crystallize who we are and who we are NOT, and to become comfortable with that identity. We saw 750,000 of us together in Washington and 3,000 of us together in Colorado Springs. And no one can rob us of the sense of unity and strength those experiences brought.

I have found myself changing from depression and grief to a frustration which energized me to march and speak out. Now to a quieter commitment to educate those who do not yet understand by being who I am day to day.

So... Where do we go from here? WE WILL GO FORWARD.

We have all been changed by our experiences since last November. We have looked fear, disappointment, rejection and hatred in the face and we have been changed.

Each one of us will decide in our own hearts how to respond to the challenges we are faced with.

Where will we go from here? We will go FORWARD.

We don't know what this year will bring. I lost my father suddenly this day last year. Before he died, when I was home for a visit to Atlanta, we were sitting at the breakfast table reading the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He was reading an article about discrimination against gay people in the military.

and he said," You know, gays and lesbians really aren't treated fairly, are they?" It was the first time I had ever heard him say the word "lesbian."

I was so glad I had come out to him three years before, because I had given him the chance to share in my pain and my struggle and to understand the experience of discrimination I have felt. And because I knew when he died that he had known and loved me fully as I was, his daughter who is a lesbian. I could not have wished for anything more in my relationship with him.

As we go out from here to our next year each of us will find our own way of going forward. Perhaps it will be through more political involvement through Ground Zero or Simple Justice. Perhaps it will be through PFLAG where we can support parents of other gay and lesbian people and feel their love and support; perhaps through joining the Diversity Chorus to build bridges through song; or through Dignity to raise the consciousness of our churches about their gay members; or by subscribing to New Phazes or Community Vision to become aware of what is happening in our gay community here.

Perhaps your step forward will be coming out to a family member or friend or co-worker. Or perhaps you must remain quiet for now, but you will feel a little stronger, a little more confidence, a little more convinced that you as a gay, lesbian or bisexual person are someone to be celebrated and valued as you are, and a little more connected to your gay, lesbian and bisexual brothers and sisters.

WE WILL GO FORWARD. There will be disappointments and rejections but they will be temporary. We stand at this moment in the "200 Year Present" (As an educator in Boulder has put it). This means that at this moment in time we are being affected by what has happened 100 years before us. And we are affecting what will happen 100 years after us.

Our setbacks will be temporary because we know that what we HAVE done and whatever we WILL do is not just for ourselves. What we are doing is for the next generation of our gay, lesbian and bisexual brothers and sisters, and for the generation after, and for the generation after that. We are moving forward not only for those who are gay, but for all people who are unjustly discriminated against because of who they are.

Whatever step you take next, do it with a little more pride in who you are, a little more courage because of having looked fear and rejection in the face and stood proud with the company of thousands with you; and do it with the conviction that the true value of who you are is determined by the Spirit who guides you within your own heart.

"Our" Frank writes to the Gazette

November 2, 1993

I have just read the editorial entitled NO MEANS NO ON GAY RIGHTS (GT, NOV. 2, 1993) and would like to make several comments and observations that are not brought to light.

In regard to the effort by People for a Stronger Colorado to place an EQUAL PROTECTION AMENDMENT on the 1994 Ballot this was a WILD CARD effort that gained little support among Gay and Lesbian groups in the state. For this reason they were unable to gain the support and workers needed to secure enough signatures. It surprised most of us in the community that they managed so much with so little organizational backing.

The WHY of this failed backing is quite simple. Gay, Lesbian and Progressive groups did not view 1994 as the appropriate timing for the effort and many felt that a different direction was needed over the next several years (Ground Zero had not taken an official stand but many in the group seemed to lean this way).

It was viewed as essential to a credible campaign that close to $3,000,000 dollars would be needed to begin to combat the massive network and financial resources of the Radical Right. Despite what has been said about the power, wealth and influence of the GLBT community, it does not have the resources that the Radical Right has. Recently, a wife of one of CFV's directors bragged in a talk at a party that CFV had in Colorado Springs over 2000 families that had pledged $25 a month to their efforts. This alone will produce $600,000 for their cause, only a portion of their resources. Ground Zero has raised 20% less than one month's equivalent of this tithe. The three top GLBT groups in the state have raised considerably less than three month's equivalent. It is widely believed that Kevin Tebedo is paid more than all paid Gay Right's Activists in the state combined and that the CFV payroll is more than the top three groups have raised combined.

CFV is so affluent that it is now sending money it raised to carry forward its anti-gay efforts in Colorado to other states ($75,000 recently to Cincinnati), a violation of previous campaign statements and perhaps of their trust in using the funds for purposes other than those stated in soliciting them.

Through their continued propaganda of myth building, lies and stereotyping, CFV has been very successful in convincing many of the voters of the rightness of their course. Gay and Lesbian groups in the state functionally decided that "political dollars are short-term dollars -- education dollars are long-term." When you have limited dollars, you must chose to spend them in the most productive way.

Finally, Gays and Lesbians have what appears to be both an asset and a liability, its own diversity. The GLBT community has had a hard time coming together because it is so diverse, being made up of every element of society, racially, culturally, economically, in religious beliefs, politically, etc, etc. No RULING COUNCIL has emerged to make pronouncements for and decisions about a united effort or campaign. CFV is a tightly controlled organization with seeming unlimited assets and only several people to make decisions.

The GLBT community is just coming to terms with this situation and you will see a growing coalition to action through education in the next several months and in years to come. We do not see this as a short-term effort that will magically reach an end because some piece of legislation is or is not passed or allowed to stand. It will take years to correct the effects of the smear and vilification tactics of the Radical Right. The thing you need to know is that we will not be eliminated from viable participation in society and government and that we will not go away.
discrimination is a danger to us all!

November 17, 1993

Without trying to justify or vilify those who attended the Village Seven Presbyterian Church and disrupted for several minutes the service to make a statement, I would like to comment on some of the reaction.

All news articles reported that this was done by a handful of people -- news stories have reported that Ground Zero, the organization of which I am a member, the largest organization in the area involved in the issue, did not participate in and does not choose to follow this type of militancy.

Despite this, I read in "Tell It To The GT" callers who generalize the actions of these few into a stereotype of all Gays and Lesbians, exactly what was done in the campaign to deny equal rights to Gay and Lesbian citizens. Ground Zero has already received similar letters attacking all Gays and Lesbians for this action.

The point is there is an assumption that all Gays and Lesbians are exactly the same and that we are all exactly the worst possible image one could draw. In fact, Gays and Lesbians are as diverse as the population itself. To say that we are all one way or the other is the same as saying that all Fundamentalist are "wannabe" members of the KKK and Junior Hitlers, that all are Waco Wackos, Jonestown extremists, killers at abortion clinics or promote "death by stoning" for incorrigible children, gays and lesbians, adulterers and pagans. We know that while some may be like this, the vast majority are none of these things.

Being homosexual and saying so is no more flaunting one's sexuality than being heterosexual and saying so. The vast majority of those of us who are homosexual never converse one way or the other about it outside of our own sphere, have never flaunted our sexuality and do not have a desire to "force" our views on any one. All we wish is the right to be who we are without discrimination and without being attacked and vilified as every evil stereotype in the book. However, we cannot counter the false claims and bigotry of those who attack us without identifying who we are.

Finally, I do not remember a public outcry when amplified street preachers appeared at Gay and Lesbian gatherings and shouted their obscene hate rhetoric throughout the activities. Is not that which is sauce for the goose also sauce for the gander?

...Letters from Mayors & Royalty

A letter from Leslie Durgin, Mayor of Boulder to Ground Zero

Dear people at Ground Zero,

In 1989 many of us stood on the same side of Boulder's human rights ordinance as we worked to extend protections to all persons in our community without regard to sexual orientation. Three years ago many of us throughout Colorado stood, marched, spoke and sang together to defeat Amendment 2. Two years ago we were shocked together when we saw our state fall prey to mongers of fear and hatred. Since then we have worked through the courts to have Amendment 2 overturned, and on October 29, many of us in Boulder danced together in our continuing effort to return our state and its communities to fairness and equity.

As a result of this fundraiser, we collected $877. Originally I had planned to split the proceeds equally between my campaign for re-election to the Boulder City Council and groups working to promote human rights and fight Amendment 2, However, now that the campaign is over, we find ourselves with sufficient funds, so I am pleased to be able to donate all the proceeds to groups using education and advocacy in our fight against "2". Although there are a number of active groups, upon the recommendation of a number of individuals and groups active in this work, I am splitting the proceeds equally between BOND (Boulder Organization for Non-Discrimination) and Ground Zero.

It means more than I can adequately express to be able to stand tall with friends and colleagues, new and old, in the on-going work before us... to guarantee equal protection for all, to educate people that love is expressed in many ways, and that we believe in and work to create communities of acceptance rather than hatred. Thank you for the work Ground Zero is doing under what may only be described as difficult circumstance. We in Boulder really appreciate it.

Linda Sutton, M.A.

counselor • mediator • consultant

love matters for lesbians and gays

611 N. Nevada Ave. • Colorado Springs • 632-0465

A Letter from THE EMPRESS XVIII, UCRSE, CHRIS LEE

Dear Friends of the Community,

It's the holiday season! Don we now our gay apparel, and, while we're at it, why not try shopping gay?

This year the United Court of Southern Colorado will sponsor a community-wide 'HOLIDAY GIFT BAZAAR' on December 5 at the Branding Iron (the Western bar at the Hide and Seek Complex).

We invite businesses, organizations and individuals who have a craft, product, or service to see or advertise to join us for this event which we hope will become an annual fair. Each group or individual will be responsible for setting-up and selling their wares; and each will receive all the money they generate. This is also a Court fund-raiser: There is a small charge of $20 to rent space in the bazaar, and the Court will donate all this money raised to S-CAP to be given to families living with AIS to help brighten their Holidays. This Bazaar will be promoted within the community through our various newsletters, posters, fliers and of course word-of-mouth. We believe this will not only be a profitable opportunity, but a good chance for gay businesses and groups and artisans to promote themselves and to introduce their businesses or groups to each other.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Lee or John at (719) 685-5509, anytime. Please do leave a message with your name and phone number so we can make sure we get back to you.

Contribution from a supportive MOM from Kansas. She discovered this treasure in her Church Bulletin!

Richard L. Hamm of Nashville received 92 percent of the vote in winning a six year term as president of the Indianapolis-based Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at the denomination's general assembly in July. Hamm's nomination had concerned some because of his liberal views on homosexual ordination. The Disciples of Christ also passed resolutions warning Colorado that it would pull its 1997 meeting out of Denver if the state refuses to protect homosexual rights, and urging the U.S. government to make the abortion drug RU 486 available.

For the first time, the Disciples of Christ held a general assembly in conjunction with the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. The UCC passed resolutions calling for the ethical treatment of animals, and backing federal civil rights and domestic partnership laws for same-sex couples. *(WOW!)*

Pat Schroeder's Pen Pal.....

General Carl E. Mundy, Jr. February 3, 1993
Commandant of the Marine Corp
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps
Washington, D.C. 20380-0001

Dear General Mundy:

Regardless of what action the civilian authorities take in the matter of three Marines fracturing the skull of a gay civilian in Wilmington, North Carolina, any Marine who cannot abide by the Uniform Code of Military Justice ought to be an ex-Marine.

I think this brutal incident also illustrates that we need to redouble our efforts to educate our soldiers on their stands of conduct, as the President pledged last Thursday: "People should be disqualified from serving in the military based on something they do, not based on who they are."

Sincerely,

Patricia Schroeder
Congresswoman

P.S. I have read that you have a videotape that explains why gays and lesbians should not serve in our nation's Armed Forces. If this is true, may I have a copy?

The Honorable Patricia Schroeder *February 8, 1993*
House of Representatives
2208 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mrs. Schroeder:

I share fully your concerns relative to the incident involving the three young citizens who are Marines and the gay civilian in Wilmington Saturday a week ago. Be assured that, after the facts surrounding the incident are clarified in the civil action in Wilmington next month, if further administrative action is warranted in the case of the marines, it will be taken.

The intentional premeditated, brutalizing of members of our society for what they are, rather than what they do, also concern me greatly. To that end, I'm enclosing a copy of a WRC, Channel 4, newscast which aired on February 4, 1993. It reports a similar case of a gay being beaten on the campus of the University of Maryland four days after the incident in Wilmington. I provide it in the event the incident escaped notice. Although it appears to be clearly premeditated, the level of media focus and national interest in it seemed not as intense as the less-clear-as-to-premeditation incident in Wilmington. As we deal with this issue, I know you share my conviction that wrongful actions by those in the private sector are of as much concern as the actions of those in the service of our nation.

I'm also forwarding a copy of the video, The Gay Agenda, which was received unsolicited in my Headquarters in early December. After viewing it, I reproduced copies.....I am pleased to provide a copy per your request. After your review, I would be interested in your observation as to whether you believe it to be reflective of the gay agenda or lifestyle. It appears to be extreme, but its message is vivid and, I believe, warrants a factual assessment. I will seek an appointment in a few days to discuss your views on it, after you have had an opportunity to view it.

Again, I sincerely appreciate and share your concern for the values andproducts of our society and its values and influences, and are young and conduct of the young people who serve our Nation. Even though they are prone to the errors of youth, my goal is to make those who choose to become Marines better than those who don't. Your interest in attaining the same goal is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

C.E. Mundy, Jr.
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps

C.E.Mundy, Jr. February 18, 1993
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps
Department of the Navy
Washington, D.C. 20380-0001

Dear General Mundy,

Thank you for your February 8 and 10 letters. The same day your February 8 package arrived, newspapers disclosed that the still unreleased , final Tailhook investigation report documents lewd and criminal behavior by naval and marine officers. As you are well aware, navy officials initially tried to squelch any investigation. A single, courageous officer blew the lid on the scandal.

In the matter at hand, a gay man was brutally beaten by a gang of thugs; apparently Marines. What is your reaction? A complaint that the incident received more press than the beating of a gay on a campus, along with an acknowledgment that you are circulating among your military colleagues a video that purports to depict gays as, as what? Deserving of being beaten? What is your point? You might shelve your videos and circulate the Tailhook report instead.

Your February 10 letter enclosed a Navy Times clip quoting a police official to the effect that the three accused Marines were unaware that the man they plummeted was gay (Witnesses at the scene say otherwise.) Again, I ask, what is your point?

Your clipping service, by the way, neglected to send along two other stories that ran on the same Navy Times page. One concerned four sailors and two Marines found guilty in San Francisco of assaulting a gay man and the other was in reference to a Naval airman accused of murdering a gay shipmate.

In other words, your communications extenuate these incidents, while marginalizing gays as somehow innately immoral.

Finally, Marines might be, in your works, "prone to the error of youth," but "error" is not precisely the word I would use to describe vicious beatings and murder. The fact that these "errors" are minimized might help explain why they occur.

Sincerely,

Pat Schroeder
Congresswoman

P.S. As for your meeting request, I have a suggestion. I would appreciate it if you would meet with gay and lesbian military veterans. Call my office and I'll arrange it.

Editor's note: Think he called?

....More Letters

A letter to the Editor of the Gazette Telegraph from Katherine Pease, President, Ground Zero.

November 16, 1993

Dear Sir:

Marilyn Barnes wrote in a letter to the GT (November 15, 1993) that by not condemning those who visited the Village 7 service week before last Ground Zero had revealed something about itself.

It is not necessary to attack or denounce those with whom we differ. Quite frankly, that seems to be a trait that the reactionary right has that they need to get over. Ground Zero has stated that they have not chosen the type of militancy of that Sunday though we do not disagree with the message that was delivered. Ground Zero did denounce the acts of vandalism when some students painted slogans on the Focus building last winter as well as acts of desecration at a church and at a cemetery.

I would like to comment on a statement by Ms. Barnes that belies knowledge of what has been done in the past at "homosexual gatherings." Time and time again, fundamentalist have shown up at said "gatherings," often amplified, and have disrupted not just a few minutes but, rather, have disrupted entire events. Once when this happened, the entire program was a musical program and the harassment went on throughout, including during a moment of prayer. Where was the denouncement from the Right for these acts?

Contrary to this, the group that went to Village 7 said what they had to say and left in less than three minutes.

I have also not heard a great outpouring of protest and chastisement from the reactionary right in regard to such acts as the violence and disruption at Planned Parenthood Clinics, including murder and bombings: I have not heard great outpourings of rage at the acts of the Fundamentalists in Waco; I do not hear protest when self-anointed preachers scream their messages at the top of their amplified lungs at meetings and in communities across the country -- not for a few minutes but continuously, and I have not heard outpourings of protest over the so called man of God in Wichita who purposefully sets about to destroy those who dare to disagree with him, picket businesses with gay employees and disrupt funerals of AIDS victims. Is this revealing about the true agenda of the right?

If what the visitors to Village 7 did being judged by different standards than the acts of those who perpetrated the above acts? It seems sad to me that the acts of these few people, that resulted in no threat of harm, in no injury and lasted only a few minutes, has drawn a greater outcry from the reactionary right in this community than did the murder of the doctor at the Clinic in Florida.

Citizens Project Responds to *Challenges of Religious Liberty Disruption of Services at Village Seven Presbyterian Church Prompt Concern*

News of the disruption of service at Village Seven Presbyterian Church in early November was met with concern at Citizen's Project. The Citizens Project vision of creating a community committed to working beyond ignorance, prejudice and fear is only realized if the legitimate rights of all citizens within the community are respected. In response, the Citizens Project Board of Directors reaffirmed the organization's commitment to supporting religious liberty at the monthly board meeting held November 15, 1993. The board concluded that the actions of the individuals disrupting workshop services at Village Seven Presbyterian Church violated this principle.

It is important to note that while differences between Pastor Paul Kuiper and Citizens Project are well documented and should not be minimized, his first Amendment right and the right of this congregation to worship without interference deserve unqualified protection. Explained board chair Amy Divine, "We all benefit when the rights and dignity of others are respected, and we all lose when they are not."

IMPORTANT INFO FROM Kathryn C. Eastburn, Arts and Entertainment Editor of THE COLORADO SPRINGS INDEPENDENT

As the Arts and Entertainment Editor of the Colorado Springs Independent, I would like to extend an invitation to each of you to use us to get information about yourselves, your mission and your events out to the community.

The Calendar section is the heart of our newspaper. Many people actually pick it up just for the eight day calendar. it is our goal to be the most comprehensive list of activities, organizations and events in the Pikes Peak Region. Please take a minute to examine the first few issues of The Independent. I think you will agree that our listings include information that is diverse, and intellectually challenging as well as entertaining.

If you have fund-raising events, guest speakers, political events, club meetings, parties or any other type of event please send announcements to me no later than Thursday at 5:00pm prior to the next edition of the newspaper. You may also fax information to 577-4107, or hand deliver it to our offices at 121 E. Pikes Peak Ave., Suite 455. I will do my best to include your events in the listings. Send me press releases, and when you can , photos, if you want to be included in the Sure Shots section, or if you want to be considered for coverage in an article.

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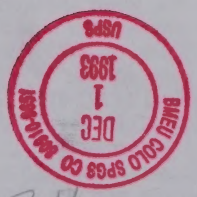

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